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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED
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Working Group III
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PRINCIPLES ON GENERAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Chairman's consolidated draft

Addendum

Draft principles proposed by the delegation of Peru

Preamble

1. We human beings are an integral part of nature and our relationship with Earth must be harmonious.

2. The incipient development of an ecological culture and ethic has created disharmony between man and nature. Enumeration of the main ecological and global issues, describing the state of deterioration of the environment, including problems of extreme poverty, and highlighting the threats that face present and future generations.

3. Define clearly and very concisely the concept of sustainable development.

4. Stress that international security in the twenty-first century, now that the cold war is over, will be a shared, global security whose cornerstones will be environmental protection and the pursuit of sustainable development, elimination of extreme poverty, respect for human rights and the effective functioning of democracy.

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* See A/CONF.151/PC/96.

5. Appeal to mankind to endorse and promote the Earth Charter.

Specific principles

(a) Obligation to protect the atmosphere, combat climate change and cooperate in order to prevent depletion of the ozone layer;

(b) Protection of the oceans and of all seas, coastal areas, rivers, lakes and islands, and rational use of living marine resources;

(c) Protection of the Earth's resources and right to use them appropriately, combating desertification, deforestation and drought;

(d) Conservation of biodiversity;

(e) Protection of drinking water quality and supply;

(f) Environmentally sound management of waste and toxic products and prevention of illegal international traffic in such wastes and toxic and other hazardous products;

(g) Human settlements and population policy to enhance the quality of life of the poorest sectors in urban and rural areas;

(h) International responsibility to refrain from environmental destruction or deterioration during armed conflicts;

(i) Promotion of education on the environment and sustainable development.

Operative principles

(a) States' obligation to submit reports on the state of their environment and their compliance with the Earth Charter;

(b) Organization of conferences or meetings at certain intervals to review compliance with the Earth Charter;

(c) Consultations among agencies, States, non-governmental organizations and transnational corporations to deal with specific cases of environmental protection or to take precautions with regard to activities which might harm it;

(d) Right to confidential communications or complaints in cases of grave, flagrant and persistent damage to the environment;

(e) Settlement of disputes through consultation, good offices, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement.